



NEWSLETTER



Happy New Year!

I would like to thank all of Bladensburg's Town residents for participating in last year's Town election and selecting me as a Council Member. I am extremely honored to serve as your elected official and promise to work hard and diligently for all residents to the best of my ability.

During my appointment, I look forward to growing my relationship with our residents by communicating and being visible in the community. Also I will continue to support the Town of Bladensburg's Mission that commits to the following:

providing for its safety and well-being, respecting its special small-town character and quality of life; providing superior public service, sustaining the public trust through open and responsive government, and maintaining the stewardship and preservation of its financial and natural resources.



Since my transition, after the October 2011 election, the Town's Staff, Mayor and Council have continued to work together in a positive and cohesive manner performing daily operations. We have focused on addressing a number of residential concerns and Ward improvements as follows:

- Addressing residents' concerns regarding the Quincy Run Creek erosion problem. In January 2012 the Prince George's County Government has commitment to and started to repair the creek erosion problem behind Bladenwoods Condominiums. They will continue to provide yearly maintenance in an effort to preserve the wetlands that exist in this historic area. The maintenance will also address environmental concerns that affect us all in the Town of Bladensburg and surrounding municipalities.
- Making 52nd Avenue and

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Contact Us

301-927-7048
(fax) 301-927-5257
4229 Edmonston Rd.
Bladensburg, MD 20710
www.Bladensburg.com

(Complete information list on back)



- Making the 52nd Avenue and Quincy Street intersection more pedestrian safe by installing better lighting for residents traveling to and from home at night. Also, we continue to be engaged in discussing traffic precautions for residents and motorists traveling on this route. Suggestions have been to install precaution signs warning turning vehicles, speed humps, and cutting back the trees.
- Providing information to residents in an effort to inform and address concerns regarding available public transportation.
- Promoting fire safety and prevention, The Town has distributed approximately 30 smoke detectors to residents. Please call if you need new smoke detectors and remember to replace your batteries annually during day-light-saving time change.
- Striving to promote more parental involvement in our schools. Strong PTAs are essential and needed to continue to make a difference in the lives of our youth.
- Continuing to promote positive achievement in all students by monthly highlighting most improved students at Town Hall meetings.
- Continuing to help improve the environment and preserve our trees.
- Stay tuned for H.O.P.E. Network250 program, Helping Our People Everyday.

As sitting Council Member, I would like to reiterate my commitment as follows:

I BRING My...

- ability to listen without prejudice
- commitment to serve this community to the best of my ability
- experience in business and community involvement
- compassion and moral integrity to assist and help others

I PROMISE To ...

- **be visible**
- **listen**
- **be accessible**
- **communicate**
- **follow-up**

We need your help and assistance to increase community participation and encourage all residents to join the Mayor and Council every second Monday of the month to attend our televised Town Hall meetings. The Town's open meetings provide a platform for our residents to discuss any issues or concerns and to share good news about what is happening in your neighborhoods.

Additionally, as we update of our database, the Town would like current email addresses to send notifications and keep our residents informed on a more regular basis.

We thank our police officers for providing an exceptional service and sacrificing their lives daily to serve and protect all residents. So when you see a police officer just say "**Thank You.**"

Hopefully, we all can look forward to an exciting new year and as we continue to work together as **TEAM COMMUNITY**. As Mayor and Council, we need the continued participation from all residents as we collaborate to make Bladensburg a safe and enjoyable

Sincerely,



Trina Brown
Council Member, Ward I

FREE HOME SMOKE DETECTORS

A home smoke detector can be one the most important devices in your home to prevent death and injury to you and your loved ones. Get your free smoke detector from Town Hall. If you already have one, check or change the battery to make certain it works.

Help save a life. **Contact Town Hall and get your smoke detector today.**



Visit's the Town of Bladensburg

Recently Ms. Nancy Stoner, Acting Assistant Administrator for Water for the Environmental protection Agency (EPA), stood in a driveway of the Ernest Maier Brick and Block Company to observe a very unique demonstration to reduce stormwater runoff. Suddenly 500-gallons of water came gushing onto the ground in front of her. But rather than forming large puddles and flowing across the parking lot, the water was simply disappearing – not into thin air, but into a special system of permeable pavers called PaveDrain. Instead of letting rain flow off hard surfaces and carry pollution into local waterways and storm drains, this innovative product captures it and allows it to slowly filter into the ground. Ms. Stoner remarked in a recent article “They (*the Ernest Maier Company*) are exactly the type of company that President Obama spoke about in his State of the Union address when he laid out a blueprint for an economy that is built to last – one built on American manufacturing, American energy and the skills of American workers.”

This forward thinking system is currently in active use and can be found at the Bladensburg Town Hall. Ernest Maier is taking steps to use clean energy and protect the environment – reusing water at the factory, putting biodiesel in their off-road vehicles, utilizing recycled materials, and working with The Conservation Fund to offset carbon dioxide emissions. Ms Stoner lauds the efforts by Earnest Maier Company and the example that was set by Town in being the first to use it as both ecologically and economically significant.



Bladensburg Announces New Social Services Assistance

There is now a State Social Worker for Prince George’s County who is assigned to the Town’s Community Resources **Office every Wednesday from 1-5 p.m.**, except State holidays. **Mr. Chidi Ihedioha** will be able to assist residents with applying for food stamps and medical assistance. He will be able to refer people for energy and cash help, and child care.

The location of the Community Resources Office is 5012 57th Avenue, Unit A3, Bladensburg, Maryland, 20710.

For further information, call 301-927-8126. This service is only available to Prince George’s County residents and no appointment is necessary.

The world is not a perfect place, and many people, animals, places, and communities need help. Governments and professionals try to meet everyone's needs, but it's impossible for them to do it all. This is why people become

volunteers: because they can make a difference where someone or something needs help. **YOU** can make a difference in our community by volunteering any of the following activities:

- Community Clean-up (*every third Saturday*)
- Cinco de Mayo (*May 5th*)
- May Festival at Bostwick (*May 6th*)

Further opportunities forth coming. **Please contact Town Hall at 301-927-7048 for more.**





Town Accomplishments

As the Town of Bladensburg (Municipal Government Services), we are proud of our many accomplishments that enhance the quality of life in our very special community. Subsequently, we present to all a small snapshot of the many achievements and efforts that have been undertaken to ensure that the Town of Bladensburg is a wonderful place to live, work, play, and worship.

- **Community Safety:**

- **Lowest crime rate in ten years**

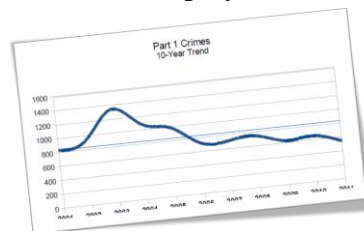
- Support for community children

- Special Patrols and Services

- Halloween

- After School

- Provide escort for over 200 children to and from the Waterfront Park and Community Playhouse



- **Community Sustainability Efforts:**

- **Implemented a Town “Green Team” with a strong mission statement and goals to achieve an environmentally friendly, sustainable, healthy community.**

- Continuing focus on the Town’s Green Street

- Reorganization of Town Records files, to include more scanned electronic filing system. *(The Town is now about 90% paperless.)*

- Conversion of Council meeting materials to electronic data.

- New Eco-lights for Town Hall

- **Community Standards and Cleanliness:**

- **Conducted Monthly Community Clean-ups**

- Removed 226 abandoned vehicles

- Issued 251 grass notices to residents and businesses.

- Removed 2,375 illegal signs were from poles and right of ways.

- Performed 4,328 site inspections.

- Posted 60 properties were for clean-up.

- Conducted 28 abatements.



- **Fiscal Matters:**

- **Significantly increased Town grants and cooperative programs**

- Went after and collected over \$90,000.00 in delinquent property taxes.

- **Town Events “Reflecting the diversity of our Community”**

- **Hosted Community Networking and Business Meetings**

- “Art in the Park” *(New Event)*

- Black History Month Event

- Cinco de Mayo Festival

- Martin Luther King Celebration

- Memorial and Veterans Day Commemorations *(Peace Cross)*

- Mexican Independence Day

- Port Towns Day

- Holiday Yule Log Celebration

- National Night Out Event



War of 1812 – Battle of Bladensburg Commemoration



This year Maryland will kick off the Bi-Centennial Commemoration of this “often overlooked” early American conflict with Britain. The War took place in three theaters: the Great Lakes and Canadian frontier, the Atlantic seaboard including the Chesapeake region, and the South and Gulf Coasts.

In the Chesapeake Campaign, American Secretary of War Armstrong insisted that the British were going to attack Baltimore, rather than the Nation’s Capital, ignoring that the British were headed toward Washington. Inexperienced American militia gathered in **Bladensburg** to protect the Capital. On August 24, 1814, they were quickly out-matched by the British who continued on to burn Washington, including the White House, just after Dolley Madison managed to save many of its valuables. Fortunately, significant rainstorms helped put out the conflagrations.

The British left Washington, D.C., headed for Baltimore, a busy port and key base for privateers. They landed at North Point where they were met by American militia, with an exchange of fire and casualties. They attempted to attack Baltimore by sea but were stopped at Fort McHenry (September, 13, 1814), where there was no British land force for support. The exploding shells over the fort illuminating the American Flag, inspired Francis Scott Key to pen the “Star-Spangled Banner”.

Bladensburg and the other Port Towns have been planning, through a taskforce established to develop a strategic plan to make this Commemoration a time for welcoming visitors from all over the world to our

community, for educating people about the historic significance of the Port Towns, to provide special events for celebrating our culture then and now, to provide recreational venues, and to enable economic opportunities for our local businesses.

In 2012, upcoming events will include an opening of the Battle of Bladensburg Visitors’ Center at the Waterfront Park, new informative and directional signage, special events, including a spring festival at Bostwick and much more.

To keep up on all that is going on go to www.battleofbladensburg1812.com

Battle of Bladensburg Commemoration Seeks Local Support

Residents and friends of the Port Towns are sought to support the Battle of Bladensburg/War of 1812 200th Anniversary. We need your help in spreading the word, coming to events, and participating in local programs. In addition, the Task Force (a joint program of the Port Town communities, M-NCPPC, and local non-profits) is seeking locals who can demonstrate historic arts and crafts, such as glassblowing, 1800’s carpentry, spinning, pottery, etc. The Task Force is also seeking anyone interested in costumed re-enacting of 1800s dress and life (i.e. sailors, soldiers, tavern keepers, women, children, etc). Call 301-887-0777 and ask for Sarah Rogers for more information.

Email to sarah@marylandmilestones.org or find out more at www.battleofbladensburg1812.org.



POINTS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST, EDUCATION, AND FUN!

Date	Time	Event Name	Location
March 17 th	9:00 am -12:00 pm	Town Clean-up (3 rd Saturday of every month)	Town Wide
May 5 th	1:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Cinco de Mayo	Town Green (Park)
May 6 th	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	May Festival	Bostwick
May 14 th	7:00 pm	Introduction of the Town Budget	Town Meeting (Town hall)
May 28 th	11:00 am	Memorial Day Observance	Peace Cross (Town Offices Closed)

“Volunteering is an act of heroism on a grand scale. And it matters profoundly. It does more than help people beat the odds; it changes the odds.”

- President Bill Clinton-

Be one of the Town's heroes; volunteer today. For more information, call Town Hall at 301-927-7048

Green Street Project Unearths Artifacts

A routine ground survey for the design phase of the Annapolis Road Green Street project in Bladensburg led to the discovery of historic artifacts that State Highway Administration archaeologists estimate to be between 3,000 and 4,000 years old. The findings were made in the grounds next to the Bladensburg Library. Some of the findings include bits of ceramic, glass and cut nails used in the 19th century for home and stone flakes construction; spear point fragments; used to

make arrowheads. The planned 1.3-mile Annapolis Road/Route 450 streetscape from Peace Cross to 56th Street will include widening sidewalks and installing a landscaped median to enhance pedestrian safety.





Quick Bits

Black History Renaissance

Black History Month Celebration



Entertainment included songs by Town Employees Derrick McClendon and Dana Duncan, and song and dance by “A New Vision for Seniors”, sponsored by Emerson House.

No event is complete without refreshments and décor and these were provided by Crossroads and Elizabeth’s, from our business community.

On Saturday February 18th, 2012 Elizabeth Seton High School’s gym “set the stage” for the Town of Bladensburg’s Annual Black History Month Celebration. An intergenerational crowd soon filled the venue and the festivities were kicked off by Master of Ceremony Mayor James, along with all the Council Members.

The theme for the event was “African American Inventors” and a number of prominent persons were highlighted as part of the program.



Do YOU Have A (Fire) Escape Plan?



- Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make certain it works.
- Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- Be safe.....practice your home fire escape drill!

Calendar

Worksessions

Second Monday of every month, 5:30 p.m.
(excluding holidays)

Council Meetings

Second Monday of every month, 7:00 p.m.

Seniors’ Club

Town Hall, 10 a.m., 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month

Bulk Trash Pick-up

3rd Saturday of every month. Please call by noon the Friday before.

Neighborhood Watch

Every Friday, 7:00 p.m.
Call 301-927-8126 for info.

CERTS Meetings

Second Saturday of every month, 9:00 a.m.
Call 301-927-8126 for info. Please call by noon the Friday before

*Town of Bladensburg
4229 Edmonston Road
Bladensburg, MD 20710*

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Contact Information

Mayor

Walter James301-452-7560

Council Members Ward I

Cris Mendoza240-604-6349

Trina Brown301-927-7048

Council Members Ward II

Walter Ficklin301-792-8199

Walter George301-379-4774

Administrative Offices

301-927-7048

Code Enforcement

301-927-0330

Police Department

301-864-6080

Public Works

301-927-1452

Port Towns CDC Annual Holiday Fund Raiser

On Thursday December 8th, 2011 the Port Towns Community Development Corporation hosted a special event at the Crossroads Night Club to honor the many who have contributed to make Port Town a wonderful place to live, work, worship and play. This event was also used as its first annual fundraiser.